IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claim listing with the following:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for operating a machine including a delivery device and a drive that processes printing substrates in sheet form, the method comprising:

conveying substrate sheets from an inside of ~~a~~ the delivery device through at least one opening to an externally accessible region;

building a delivery pile in the externally accessible region using the substrate sheets coming from the inside of the delivery device through the opening;

controlling at least one ~~controlling~~ closing device for opening or closing the opening via a control device operatively connected to ~~a~~ the drive of the delivery device; and

closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.

Claim 2 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the opening is closed or opened manually or using an operating control element; and the opening is capable of being opened only when the drive is at rest; the drive being capable of operation only when the opening is closed.

Claim 3 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising opening the opening using the control device as soon as a substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening, or maintaining the opening in an open position when a printing substrate protrudes through the opening.

Claim 4 (original): The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the closing device is controlled as a function of the format; and during the transport of substrate sheets, the opening is in the open position or is opened by the control device only to the extent required by a width or length of the substrate sheet.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein after the drive of the ~~machine~~ delivery device has come to a stop, the opening is in an open position or is opened by the control device.

Claim 6 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the opening is in the closed position or is closed by the control device before the drive is put into operation and when no substrate sheets protrude through the opening to the outside.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 4 wherein, in the case of format-dependent adjustment of the closing device, the control device opens the opening wider when the drive is at rest and ~~printing substrates protrude~~ the printing substrate protrudes through the opening from the inside to the outside of the delivery device.

Claim 8 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the machine is a printing press.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A device for a machine that processes printing substrates in sheet form comprising:

a delivery device including a drive for conveying substrate sheets and having at least one opening, the substrate sheets capable of being conveyed from an inside of the delivery device through the at least one opening to build a delivery pile in ~~to~~ an externally accessible region, the delivery device including at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening; and

a control device for controlling the closing device and being operatively connected to the drive, the control device closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.

Claim 10 (original): The device as recited in claim 9 further comprising sensors or contacts at the closing device to detect a state of the closing device.

Claim 11 (original): The device as recited in claim 9 further comprising sensors or contacts for detecting substrate sheets present in a region of the closing device.

Claim 12 (original): The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the closing device includes at least one movable closing element controllable by the control device.

Claim 13 (original): The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the closing device includes three movable closing elements controllable by the control device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the movable closing element is a roller shutter.

Claim 15 (original): The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the machine is a printing press.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A printing press or folding machine comprising:

a delivery device including a drive for conveying substrate sheets and having at least one opening, the substrate sheets capable of being conveyed from an inside of the delivery device through the at least one opening to build a delivery pile in ~~to~~ an externally accessible region, the delivery device including at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening; and

a control device for controlling the closing device and being operatively connected to the drive, the control device closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.